REMARKS

In the last Office Action, claim 6 was objected to as being dependent upon canceled claim 2. Claims 1, 3-8, 11-18, 21-24 and 26 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over applicant's prior art disclosure in Fig. 3 ("APD") in view of Winer (USPN 5,796,401), Okazaki (USPN 7,079,177), and Kelman (USPN 6,850,896).

In accordance with the present response, claim 6 has been amended to depend on claim 1, as suggested by the Examiner, thereby overcoming the objection and advancing prosecution. Accordingly, the amendment to claim 6 does not raise a new issue that would require further search or consideration. Applicant therefore respectfully requests entry of this amendment and consideration of the amended claim on the merits.

Applicant respectfully traverses the prior rejection of pending claims 1, 3-8, 11-18, 21-24 and 26. As set forth in detail below, the combined teachings of APD, Winer, Okazaki and Kelman do not disclose or suggest the structural and functional combinations of the user interface recited in claims 1, 3-8, 11-18, 21-24 and 26. Applicant therefore requests reconsideration of his application as set forth below.

Independent claim 1 is directed to a computer user interface for creating a printing template for analysis results of an analyzer. Independent claim 13 is directed to a user interface for a sample analyzer having a computer. Independent claim 24 is directed to a user interface for creating a printing template. Each of independent claims 1, 13 and 24 recites group editing means for performing group editing of items including the characters or the digits in the same group by performing character position alignment of the first characters or digit alignment of the digits.

By the foregoing editing means and corresponding function recited in independent claims 1, 13 and 24, group editing can be performed in a report of analysis results in an efficient and economical manner. For example, group editing can be performed for character position alignment such as position alignment of first characters or digit alignment of numeric values, display attributes such as size, color, and font, and position adjustment of grouped items, thereby eliminating the necessity of manually editing titles for each item (e.g., analysis conditions) separately.

This is in contrast to conventional computer user interfaces for creating printing templates which include items of information arranged in a display area independently without any type of arrangement relationship. For example, in

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such conventional computer interfaces, when the items of information are displayed in a vertical arrangement, the starting positions of the contents thereof are not aligned and are difficult to differentiate from one another. In order to vertically align the contents of the items of information, the procedure required cannot be performed automatically, but instead requires separate editing operations (e.g., insertion of spaces) which renders the process expensive and time consuming to accomplish.

The group editing means and corresponding function recited in independent claims 1, 13 and 24 is not disclosed or suggested by the combined teachings of the references.

As acknowledged by the Examiner, APD, Okazaki and Kelman do not disclose or suggest group editing means.

Winer discloses a layout system that enables a user to interrelate objects in one or more permanent relationships by selectively distributing, aligning, sizing, and/or spacing the objects (col. 3, lines 13-20). However, even if such layout system were interpreted to perform any type of group editing function, Winer does <u>not</u> disclose or suggest the specific group editing function recited in amended independent claims 1, 13 and 24, namely, <u>performing group editing of items including the characters or the digits in the same group by performing character position alignment of the first characters or digit alignment of the digits</u>.

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In the final Office Action, the Examiner contends that Winer discloses group editing of items (col. 3, lines 13-17), including character position alignment (col. 3, lines 18-20), and that Winer discloses that the items contain text (col. 3, lines 6-11), which inherently includes characters and digits. Applicant respectfully disagrees.

The "objects" in Winer correspond to boxes that can contain text, graphics, animation, video, outlines, titles, headlines, and other information and data (col. 3, lines 6-11). The "objects" in Winer constitute boxes which do not correspond to "characters" or "digits" as recited in independent claims 1, 13 and 24.

Column 3, lines 13-17 relied upon by the Examiner describes that the layout system in Winer "enables objects to be manipulated individually or as a group and to be arranged permanently in various relationships, in which various components or attributes of the objects are interrelated." Thus, the Examiner is construing the "objects" described in col. 3, lines 13-17 of Winer as the "items" of the claimed invention.

Furthermore, in column 11, lines 2-11 Winer describes that "if the user selects any object (i.e., the first object 46, second object 52, or third object 54) by manipulating the mouse pointer 28 to point to the border of

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the object (i.e., one of the vertical portions of the border 46B of the first object 46, one of the vertical portions of the border 52B of the second object 52, or one of the vertical portions of the border 54B of the third object 54) and clicking the mouse button 6A and dragging, the selected object can be re-sized in width, and the temporary equivalence of widths disappears."

Thus in Winer the object is a rectangular box which can be re-sized. However, if the object in Winer is the rectangular box, that object does not correspond to the items recited in the claims. For example the items of claim 1 correspond to analysis conditions such as parameters including a title and its contents, not boxes. Furthermore, claim 1 recites display means having two areas: a printing image displaying area and an item displaying area. Winer does not teach these two displaying areas.

Thus, the group editing in Winer corresponds to group editing of a plurality of object boxes (group of objects) relating to alignment or attributes of the object boxes. That is, Winer discloses editing positions or attributes of the boxes and does not refer to alignment of text or numbers in the box. In contrast, the group editing recited in the claims functions to automatically align the first characters or digits of numbers.

Furthermore, the invention recited in the present claims relate to a report for analyzing results in an analyzer. In contrast, Winer relates to text and graphic display systems and to a system for designing a layout for a display screen, such as the display screen of a personal computer. Thus, Winer and the claimed invention are directed to different industrial applications. Unlike in Winer, since the present claims relate to a report for analyzing results in an analyzer, alignment of characters and of digits is particularly necessary.

Moreover, claim 13 further distinguishes from Winer in that claim 13 requires an item displaying area for displaying an item list of individually selectable items containing characters or digits. Winer does <u>not</u> disclose or suggest such item displaying area and corresponding function. Likewise, Winer does <u>not</u> disclose or suggest an image displaying area for displaying an image of <u>sample characteristics</u>, as recited in claim 13.

Okazaki and Kelman also fail to teach the foregoing structural and functional combinations recited in independent claims 1, 13 and 24 and, therefore, do not cure the deficiencies of APD as modified by Winer. Accordingly, one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been led to modify the references to attain the claimed subject matter.
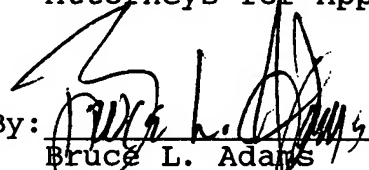
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Claims 3-8, 11-12 and 14-18, 21-23 and 26 depend on and contain all of the limitations of independent claims 1, 13 and 24, respectively, and, therefore, distinguish from the references at least in the same manner as claims 1, 13 and 24.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of claims 1, 3-8, 11-18, 21-24 and 26 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing, the application is believed to be in allowable form. Accordingly, entry of this amendment and favorable reconsideration and allowance of the claims are most respectfully requested.
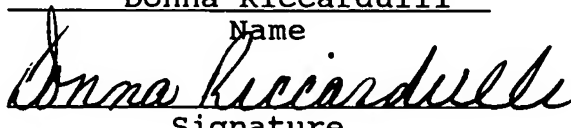
Respectfully submitted,

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